

# Iowa Crops & Weather



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For the month of December 2004

## December Marked By Mild Weather

**Agricultural Summary:** Producers took advantage of moderate temperatures to complete outside operations: fall tillage, dry fertilizer application, fencing, tiling, and tree cutting. Reporters noted grain movement was slow, reduced by low prices and year-end tax strategies. Large piles of grain remain on the ground and there is a growing concern for grain quality. There were some reports of spoilage in the top two feet of corn piles. Some farmers are concerned by the lack of precipitation.

At the end of December, the average depth of **snow cover** across Iowa was visibly zero inches, compared to 2 inches at the same time last year. The average depth of **frost penetration** for the state was 9 inches, compared to last year's 7 inches. **Soil moisture availability** was rated 2 percent very short, 17 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus. **Movement of grain** for the state was 30 percent none, 45 percent light, 23 percent moderate, and 2 percent heavy.

**Availability of hay and roughage supplies** was 3 percent short, 83 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. **Quality of hay and roughage supplies** was 5 percent poor, 34 percent fair, and 61 percent good. **Utilization of stubble fields for grazing** rated 28 percent none, 19 percent limited, 32 percent moderate, and 21 percent extensive.

**Hog and pig losses** in December were below last year's state averages at 23 percent below average, 72 percent average, and 5 percent above average. **Cattle and calf losses** were also below last year's state averages at 32 percent below average, 65 percent average, and 3 percent above average. With no snow and little ice cattle and calves were reported in good condition. Corn stalk bales were being used extensively and grazing on corn stalk fields was wide open. There were scattered reports of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV) in hogs.

## Iowa Preliminary Weather Summary - December 2004

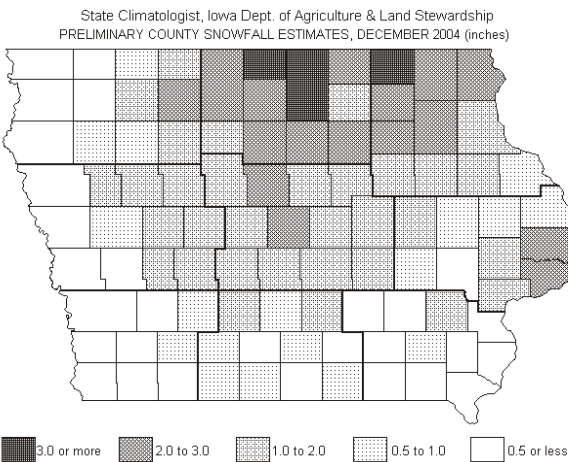
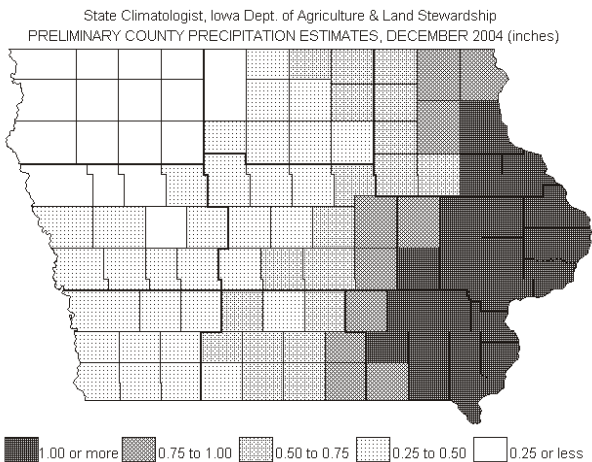
**General Summary:** Iowa temperatures averaged 27.4 degrees or 4.8 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 0.58 inches or 0.65 inches less than normal. This ranks as the

39th warmest and 25th driest December among 132 years of state records.

**Temperatures:** The relatively warm weather pattern of this past autumn continued through most of December. Above normal temperatures were the rule for the first 12 days of the month with temperatures reaching 56 degrees at Glenwood, Leon, Red Oak and Sidney on the 4th. The state's first sub-zero temperatures of the season did not arrive until the morning of the 19th when Sibley reported a low of -10 degrees. The month's coldest weather, however, came just before Christmas. Northwood recorded an afternoon high of only -1 degrees on the 23rd with temperatures falling to -18 degrees on the morning of the 24th. However, the month's warmest weather was saved for last as readings soared into the 60's across the southwest one-half of Iowa on the afternoon of the 30th. Glenwood reported the highest temperature with 67 degrees.

**Heating Degree Day Totals:** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 2 percent more than last December but 12 percent less than normal. Thus far this heating season (since July 1), heating requirements are running 6 percent less than last season and 14 percent less than normal.

**Precipitation:** Dry weather prevailed for most of December. Over 60 percent of the month's precipitation fell on the 5th when rainfall amounts of one-half to two-thirds of an inch were common across the southeast half of Iowa. Monthly precipitation totals were below normal at all reporting stations with amounts varying from 0.06 inches at Sibley to 1.37 inches at Keokuk. The only snowfall of consequence began on the morning of the 20th and continued into the morning of the 21st. Snowfall amounts of 1 to 2 inches were common across central and northern Iowa with greatest amounts reported at Northwood (4.4 inches) and Lake Mills (4.0 inches). Statewide snowfall averaged only 1.2 inches for the month or 6.1 inches less than usual. This ranks as the 9th lowest December snow total among 118 years of state records. Snowfall was also less than normal in October and November with a season-to-date total of only 2.1 inches or 9.1 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 5th slowest start to Iowa's snowfall season (through Dec. 31).



## Snow Cover and Frost Penetration for the month of December

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Snow cover	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	NA	2
Frost penetration	10	14	9	12	8	8	4	7	5	9	NA	7

December Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service Prepared by AWIS, Inc.											
STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
Estherville Sioux Center Spencer Spirit Lake	North West District										
	57	-12	25	9	0.11	-0.61	1	1,219	-208	27	23
	60	-10	27	8	0.12	-0.71	2	1,156	-197	29	24
	60	-12	27	10	0.06	-0.64	1	1,166	-236	26	22
	55	-10	25	9	0.10	-0.76	1	1,185	-2	28	23
Britt Humboldt Mason City Northwood	North Central District										
	54	-14	22	4	0.24	-1.11	2	1,317	-58	29	29
	56	-12	24	4	0.32	-0.68	5	1,261	-98	30	26
	54	-14	25	7	0.42	-0.77	6	1,247	-159	26	24
	54	-18	22	6	0.51	-0.62	3	1,330	-108	29	25
Decorah Dubuque Elkader Independence Waterloo	North East District										
	53	-16	25	6	0.77	-0.42	8	1,220	-114	28	24
	56	-10	27	7	1.12	-0.81	8	1,174	-136	26	22
	58	-14	24	4	1.06	-0.31	7	1,253	102	28	26
	58	-12	24	6	0.79	-0.72	5	1,252	5	28	25
57	-13	27	7	0.51	-0.77	5	1,181	-167	25	23	
Audubon Carroll Castana Guthrie Center Harlan Jefferson Logan Rockwell City Sioux City	West Central District										
	61	-11	26	4	0.32	-0.85	2	1,201	-49	30	29
	62	-10	26	6	0.25	-0.69	4	1,206	-114	30	28
	61	-9	26	4	0.26	-0.56	2	1,192	-163	31	27
	62	-12	26	5	0.22	-1.04	1	1,189	-89	30	27
	63	-8	27	4	0.33	-0.66	3	1,186	-146	30	30
	62	-8	27	6	0.35	-0.59	4	1,178	-142	30	24
	64	-8	28	6	0.34	-0.72	2	1,153	-124	30	28
	60	-11	25	4	0.15	-0.76	3	1,245	-54	30	27
	66	-10	30	9	0.12	-0.65	1	1,078	-224	28	23
Ames Boone Des Moines Eldora Marshalltown Newton Perry Toledo	Central District										
	60	-10	28	8	0.52	-0.57	7	1,131	-191	28	22
	60	-12	26	5	0.45	-0.87	5	1,209	-98	30	27
	63	-6	31	7	0.58	-0.72	4	1,062	-164	24	19
	57	-9	25	5	0.46	-0.67	5	1,244	-90	29	26
	58	-13	27	6	0.46	-0.81	5	1,160	-136	27	22
	61	-7	26	4	0.64	-0.47	5	1,207	-51	29	26
	62	-8	27	5	0.26	-0.79	6	1,182	-107	30	25
	60	-11	25	4	0.75	-0.48	4	1,233	-68	29	26
	Cedar Rapids Davenport Iowa City Lowden Maquoketa Muscatine	East Central District									
59		-11	28	6	0.95	-0.62	8	1,142	-132	26	23
59		-7	29	5	1.06	-0.84	8	1,104	-83	24	21
62		-3	31	6	0.94	-0.60	7	1,046	-133	23	22
58		-10	25	3	1.22	-0.86	10	1,225	-39	28	25
57		-8	26	4	0.89	-0.88	4	1,216	-53	27	25
61		-5	28	3	1.18	-0.77	9	1,134	-218	25	22
Clarinda Glenwood Oakland Red Oak Sidney	South West District										
	64	-8	28	5	0.38	-0.78	1	1,127	-90	30	27
	67	-8	29	6	0.34	-0.82	2	1,098	-102	31	27
	64	-6	28	6	0.43	-0.63	2	1,131	-144	31	27
	66	-8	30	5	0.48	-0.71	3	1,088	-101	29	26
	66	-2	30	5	0.43	-0.71	1	1,079	-112	29	25
Allerton Beaconsfield Chariton Indianola Leon	South Central District										
	63	-7	27	4	0.72	-0.57	4	1,156	-283	29	25
	63	-7	28	4	0.36	-0.73	2	1,147	-70	30	24
	65	-6	28	5	0.59	-0.74	6	1,130	-100	29	26
	64	-8	28	5	0.56	-0.81	3	1,134	-94	29	25
	66	-8	29	5	0.63	-0.72	3	1,124	-91	30	24
Bloomfield Burlington Ottumwa	South East District										
	61	-3	28	2	0.98	-0.56	4	1,129	-6	28	24
	62	-4	32	6	1.15	-0.81	7	1,022	-132	24	18
	63	-6	30	6	1.17	-0.24	6	1,060	-122	26	18

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Copyright 2005: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.